

21 February 1956

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief, Intelligence Information Staff,
Requirements Branch

THROUGH: Chief, Industrial Division, OIR

FROM: Chief, Medium Machinery Branch, D/I

SUBJECT: Gaps in Intelligence -- Soviet Machine Tool Production

REFERENCE:

1. Commerce, Bureau of the Census. Facts for Industry, Washington, D.C., 3 May 1957. U.
2. CIA. FPD Translation no 647, July 1957, USSR Industry, A Statistical Compilation, p. 208-9. OFF USE.

BACKGROUND

1. This branch recently prepared a research paper on the subject of ruble/dollar ratios for the 1955 prices of US and Soviet metalcutting machine tools. Publication of the annual unit production of the major categories of metalcutting machine tools in the referenced statistical handbook made it possible for the first time to develop a weighted ruble/dollar ratio using physical units of Soviet machine tool production for binary comparison with a ruble/dollar ratio weighted by physical units of machine tool production in the US.

2. While these binary ruble/dollar ratios weighted by physical units of production mark an advance over previous studies of ruble/dollar ratios for metalcutting machine tools, it would be still more desirable to develop binary ruble/dollar ratios weighted by the monetary value of production in the US and the USSR. Information on the monetary value of the 1955 production of metalcutting machine tools in the US is available in the referenced Facts for Industry.

3. There is a significant gap in our economic intelligence so far as the monetary value of the annual production of metalcutting machine tools in the USSR is concerned. To be of use in the formulation of weighted ruble/dollar ratios, however, any information on the monetary value of the annual production of metalcutting machine tools in the USSR should be broken down by major categories of metalcutting machine tools, preferably along the same lines as the information of physical units of production in the referenced statistical handbook.

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4. A gap in our intelligence concerning the reported categories of Soviet metalcutting machine tools is the lack of detailed information on the exact composition of the various categories under which they are classified, particularly with respect to the categories of "special, specialized and unit-type machine tools" and "other machine tools."

REQUIREMENTS

1. This branch requests that, if possible, information be obtained either from high-level defectors having previous connections with Gosplan USSR and the Central Statistical Administration or from official documents of these governmental agencies concerning the annual monetary value of commodity production (tovarnaya produktsiya) of Soviet metalcutting machine tools in recent years, preferably 1955, with a breakdown in value by category of machine tool.

2. This branch also requests that a watch be kept for publication in the Soviet press or in statistical abstracts and handbooks of the information requested in paragraph 1, above. The desired information may be published at some time in a form similar to the referenced statistical handbook.

3. This office further requests that, if possible, information disclosing the detailed composition of the categories "special, specialized, and unit-type machine tools" and "other machine tools" in the referenced Soviet statistical handbook be obtained. Information is also desired on the extent to which light machine tools may be included under the categories of "lathes," "grinding machines," and "vertical drilling machine" in the referenced handbook.

Degree of need: standard; continuing.

Originator: I/MM

Suggested sources: FI; Foreign Branch, CIA Library

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